

CLAIMS

- [c1] 1. A method in a switch for buffering data received through a source port before transmitting the data through a destination port, the method comprising:
- receiving a first frame of data through the source port;
 - storing the received first frame of data;
 - receiving a second frame of data through the source port;
 - storing the received second frame of data;
 - selecting either the first frame or the second frame for transmitting through the destination port based on a priority score of the first frame and the second frame.
- [c2] 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the first and second frames are stored in a buffer that is used to store frames received only through the source port.
- [c3] 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on a priority associated with the frame.
- [c4] 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on a class of service of the frame.
- [c5] 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on latency of the frame.

[c6] 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the first frame is stored in a first buffer and the second frame is stored in a second buffer and all frames of a connection are stored in the same buffer.

[c7] 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the switch is an interconnect fabric module.

[c8] 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the switch is Fibre Channel compatible.

[c9] 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the switch is InfiniBand compatible.

[c10] 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the second frame is received after the first frame and wherein the second frame is selected.

[c11] 11. The method of claim 1 wherein a later received frame is selected before an earlier received frame.

[c12] 12. A routing device comprising:
a first buffer for storing a first frame received through a source port;
a second buffer for storing a second frame received through the source port; and
a component that selects either the first frame or the second frame for transmitting through a destination port based on a priority score of the first frame and the second frame.

[c13] 13. The routing device of claim 12 wherein each source port of the routing device has a first and second buffer and a component that selects.

[c14] 14. The routing device of claim 12 wherein the first and second buffer are used to store frames received only through the source port.

[c15] 15. The routing device of claim 12 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on a priority associated with the frame.

[c16] 16. The routing device of claim 12 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on a class of service of the frame.

[c17] 17. The routing device of claim 12 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on latency of the frame.

[c18] 18. The routing device of claim 12 wherein all frames of a connection are stored in the same buffer.

[c19] 19. The routing device of claim 12 wherein the routing device is an interconnect fabric module.

[c20] 20. The routing device of claim 12 wherein the routing device is Fibre Channel compatible.

[c21] 21. The routing device of claim 12 wherein the routing device is InfiniBand compatible.

[c22] 22. The routing device of claim 12 wherein the second frame is received after the first frame and the second frame is selected.

[c23] 23. The routing device of claim 12 wherein a later received frame is selected before an earlier received frame.

[c25] 25. A routing device comprising:

- means for storing a first frame received at the routing device;
- means for storing a second frame received at the routing device; and
- means for selecting either the first frame or the second frame for transmitting based on a priority score of the first frame and the second frame.

[c26] 26. The routing device of claim 25 wherein each source port of the routing device has a means for storing and a means for selecting.

[c27] 27. The routing device of claim 25 wherein the means for storing are used to store frames received through only one source port.

[c28] 28. The routing device of claim 25 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on a priority associated with the frame.

[c29] 29. The routing device of claim 25 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on a class of service of the frame.

[c30] 30. The routing device of claim 25 wherein the priority score of a frame is based on latency of the frame.

[c31] 31. The routing device of claim 25 wherein all frames of a connection are stored by the same means for storing.

[c32] 32. The routing device of claim 25 wherein the routing device is an interconnect fabric module.

[c33] 33. The routing device of claim 25 wherein the routing device is Fibre Channel compatible.

[c34] 34. The routing device of claim 25 wherein the routing device is InfiniBand compatible.

[c35] 35. The routing device of claim 25 wherein the second frame is received after the first frame and the second frame is selected by the means for selecting.

[c36] 36. The routing device of claim 25 wherein a later received frame is selected before an earlier received frame by the means for selecting.

[c37] 37. The routing device of claim 25 wherein the routing device is a switch.